(*b*) the number of communal Bills pending in both the Houses of the Legislature ; and

(*c*) whether the Government have received any representation as to the necessity of having a common law for the Hindus of the State ?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*) :

(*a*) 16.

(*b*) 3. One Bill in the Assembly and two in the Council.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : With reference to the answer to part (*c*) of the question, may I know from the member from whom the representations have been received by Government ?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLI : From a number of people.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI : May I know whether any action has been taken with regard to such representations?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI : The matter is under the consideration of Government.

PRESIDENT : As a matter of fact, I indicated yesterday that the Government are considering a large number of Bills that come up on behalf of various communities. Some of these communities feel that their view points are not adequately considered either because of the smallness of their number or because there are not adequate number of adherents to their cause in this House or elsewhere. Therefore, Government are considering if they cannot have one kind of common enactment for many of those communities.

Hospitals and dispensaries in the State.

595. ❋ **MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the total number of doctors, nurses and midwives in the State ;

(*b*) the total number of beds in the hospitals and dispensaries in the State ; and

(*c*) whether Government would furnish the members with a list of the hospitals and dispensaries with the respective number of doctors, midwives and beds in each of them.

DR. S. JOHN (*Surgeon-General*) : (*a*) Information is not available. But so far as the Medical and Public Health Departments are concerned, the number is as follows:—

*Doctors	...	223
Nurses	....	218
Midwives	...	154.

(*b*) 3,173.

(*c*) The list is laid on the Secretary's table.

*This is the sanctioned strength.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : May I know whether at any time the Department has conducted a survey with regard to the adequacy of medical service in the State ?

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DR. S. JOHN: Every year it is being surveyed.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Am I to take it that in spite of the survey conducted year after year they have not been able to get information as to the total number of Doctors, Nurses and Midwives in the State?

DR. S. JOHN: The information is available with regard to the number in the hospitals of the State.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: In spite of the repeated survey conducted from year to year by the Surgeon-General, have not Government got the total number of Doctors, Nurses and Midwives in the State?

PRESIDENT: Including private individuals?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Yes.

DR. S. JOHN: They have not got the number.

The number of Doctors and private practitioners recognised by Government is available.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know how many there are in the State?

DR. S. JOHN: I cannot say it at random. The information is in my office.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Then may I know the meaning of the answer 2—"Information is not available"?

PRESIDENT: No statistics have till now been taken about private practitioners. If honourable members are interested in that, Government will see that statistics are collected and furnished to them.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: The Surgeon-General said that surveys are being made year after year.

PRESIDENT: Any man who takes a degree from a medical institution in America in Homeopathy or in any other branch calls himself a Doctor and begins to practice. They are larger in number than legal practitioners.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: What is the nature of the survey that the Surgeon-General is conducting year after year?

DR. S. JOHN: We have got a register of practitioners in the Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Homeopathic and Unani systems of treatment. We have got a list of all practising Doctors.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, I rise to a point of order. The Surgeon-General says that the information is available in his office. The printed answer is that the information is not available. Can this be allowed?

PRESIDENT: That is no point of order.

The Surgeon-General is not the person who conducts or takes the survey with regard to medical practitioners. There is a Medical Council and the Registrar of the Medical Council has got a list of persons who have forwarded applications for registration, as duly qualified men for practice in different branches of Medicine. There is a very large number of applications so received. Some have been dealt with,

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while others have not yet been. If honourable members are interested I shall see that a complete list of all persons who have applied for registration is placed on the table of the House.

MR. K K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: From the statistics now available, do the Government think that the Medical service-in the State is quite adequate at present?

PRESIDENT: It is a well-known fact that it is not adequate.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: What are the steps taken to get over that situation?

PRESIDENT: If we can get some 100 Doctors more, we are perfectly prepared to employ them. Government have not got the adequate number of Doctors and so the Surgeon-General has been compelled to appoint people with rather inadequate qualifications. Government, although they are very reluctant to entrust the lives of the inhabitants of the State to partially qualified Doctors, have no other alternative excepting to sanction appointments which are not admissible in normal times. Many of the Doctors who have gone out on War service, are now returning. But unfortunately they are asking for very large salaries. Just on the lines of the strike at Quilon, they are asking for very large amounts which it is absolutely impossible to give. I shall give an instance. There was a road programme initiated by the Chief Engineer and it was suggested that the Assam Labour recruits, when they return, can be utilised for the maintenance and improvement of village roads. A notification was issued asking people to apply. But only a very small number did actually apply. When they were asked what remuneration they should be given, they said that nothing less than Rs. 60 per month would satisfy them. Not one single person has consented to work for anything less than Rs. 60 with the result that none of the persons who have returned from Assam Labour has gone for that work. The position is similar with regard to doctors. One or two of them have asked for a District Surgeon's pay. They said they cannot possibly be expected to live on starvation wages. An interesting instance came to my notice the other day. There was a particular gentleman who was getting a pay of Rs. 35. When he was interviewed, he asked for a big salary, because he said that he had shed his blood for the country. Enquiries were made and it was found that he shed his blood as a Civilian officer in an Ordnance Depot. (*Laughter.*)

I am trying to get doctors but all of them say they will not accept anything less than Rs. 200 or 300 a month, and the result is that no new doctors are employed. That is the exact position. In fact, Government have a very big programme of expansion of hospital facilities in the State and they are very anxious to have more doctors. Unless a certain amount of common sense is infused in the minds of these people the position will be very difficult. I have no doubt that the situation must ease after some time. Many of them have accumulated enough money to last for six or seven months and after that they will be amenable to reasonable remuneration.

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MR. A. K. BHASKAR (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): But there are men who are not qualified taken by the Government.

PRESIDENT: Well, if the honourable member will give a list of names of such gentlemen it will be dealt with by Government.

MR. A. K. BHASKAR: Thank you, Sir.

Victoria Hospital, Quilon.

596. ✻MR. K. A. MOHAMED: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the pay-ward attached to the Victoria Hospital, Quilon, has been handed over to the department; and

(*b*) whether it is now available for the use of the public and if not the reasons for the same?

DR. S. JOHN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED: May I know when the Department took charge of the pay-ward?

DR. S. JOHN: About a couple of months ago.

Kattakada dispensary.

597. ✻MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Government have received a memorial from the people of Kattakada and the adjoining villages in the Nedumangad taluk pointing out the inconvenience and hardship caused on account of want of accommodation in the Kattakada dispensary;

(*b*) whether there was an offer to collect funds by public subscription and to hand it over to Government to put up a new building for the dispensary there; and

(*c*) whether the Surgeon-General or any officer took any step to meet the people of this locality or the memorialists to make further arrangements on the matter?

DR. S. JOHN: (*a*) & (*b*). The answers are in the affirmative.

(*c*) Yes. The District Medical Officer, Nagercoil, met Mr. P. K. Madhavan Pillai, President of the Co-operative Society No. 1103 and some other prominent persons in the locality. They have promised to put up a dispensary building at their cost and hand it over, together with the site, to Government free of cost. The site chosen by them is in the same Pakuthy (Kulathummel) in which Kattakada also is situated, but is about a mile away from the Kattakada junction.

As there are temporary Malaria Dispensaries at Chemboor, Kattakada, Aryanad, Vellanad and Kunnathukal and petitions have been received from the public of all these places for making the dispensaries permanent the acceptance of the offer made by the people will be considered later on in consultation with the Medical Advisory Committee.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: In answer to part (*c*) it is stated "the sites chosen by them are in the same pakuthy (Kulathummel) in which Kattakada is also situated, but is about a mile away from the Kattakada junction." May I know from the honourable member whether there was any offer from the people of Kattakada to build the Dispensary at the Kattakada junction?

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